(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal.

Investment by PIOs in aviation sector

1660. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media report captioned, "PIOs will get more; benefit";

(b) if so, whether Government would consider permitting seriously Persons of Indian Origin to invest upto 100 per cent in aviation sector, including domestic airlines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In terms of the existing regulatory frame-work specific to the Civil Aviation sector, Persons of Indian Origin are allowed to invest in the equity stake.

Reopening of ancient trade links with China

1661. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arunachal Pradesh Government propose to reopen ancient trade links with China from certian strategic locations;

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof;

(c) whether such type of trade routes are also proposed to be opened with Myanmar and Bhutan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far this would help to improve the economy of the NE region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Arunachal Pradesh Government has requested for taking up the opening of Kepang La Pas, Simu La, Lusa La, Mechuka-Lola Pass, Bumla and Kenzamane. At Present, border trade with China is being conducted through three border passes, namely, Lipulekh, Shipkila and Nathula. Government have proposed to the Chinese side the opening of additional border trading routes, including through Demchok, Nitil and Bumla.

(c) and (d) An Agreement on Border Trade with; Myanmar was signed on 21.1.1994, which was operationalised on 12.4.1995. The Agreement evisages that the Border Trade will take place through custom Posts at Moreh in Manipur and champai in Mizoram, corresponding to Tamu and Rhi in Myanmar. The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the proposal of opening of third border post at Pangsau Pass with the Government of Myanmar. There is no fresh proposal for openign of any new trade route with Bhutan at present. The India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit, which was renewed on 28th July, 2006 for ten years, provides for 16 points on the border through which trade takes place between the two countries.

(e) Border Trade is for the benefit of people residing near the border on both sides. As such opening of new Border Trade points in the North East region would help to improve the economy of this Region.

Making India export basket for global market

1662. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring radical changes in making India an export basket for the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the current export position of India;

(d) the action plan to develop Small and Medium Enterprises, with a view to generating more employment opportunities in the country; and